



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Kolnaski

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was lead by Genevieve Cerf.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

PUBLIC HEARING:

2009-0248

FYE 2011 Budget

Heard at Public Hearing

Mayor Streeter called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m.

The Notice of the Pre-Budget Public Hearing was read by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

Jack Sebastian, 4 East Shore Avenue, requested that there be no increase in property taxes next year. He stated that the Town cannot rely on corporate taxes from Pfizer and Electric Boat forever, and that Groton needs to develop a budget with no increase in taxes.

Genevieve Cerf, 17 Crescent Street, asked the Council to decrease this year's budget by 5%. She stated that last year the Town had an almost level budget which resulted in a 7% increase in property taxes. Ms. Cerf remarked that the rate of tax increases has become unsustainable.

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, stated that expenditures, income, and property taxes have to be considered when developing the budget, and suggested investigating where shared services could be utilized. Mr. Sutherland would like a detailed itemization of cost information for services in the Town, because without adequate data, citizens cannot identify which services they would like the Town Council to cut or eliminate.

Lisa Tess, 84 Ensign Drive, Mystic, realizes that tough decisions will be made with the budget, and asks that the Council consider the best interests of the Town's children when making those decisions. She requested that all aspects of the budget be looked at, not just the Board of Education budget.

There being no further comments, Mayor Streeter closed the Public Hearing at 8:14 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0039 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 2, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0033 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Douglas and Catherine Miller - \$25.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Denny Barthel - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Andrew Teft - \$15.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Diane Ambrun - \$20.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Dick Ravenelle - \$15.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Guy's Oil Service Niantic - \$50.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Jane Doyle - \$25.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0040 AFSCME Pension Agreement Amendments

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Johnson had a person approach him to commend Groton for its clean drinking water and to thank those responsible.

Mayor Streeter attended a Zoning Commission Public Hearing, an informal meeting with the Town Manager and Pfizer, a special Town Council meeting to discuss goals, a joint budget discussion with the City Mayor and City Council, a meeting with Mayor Popp to discuss the Thames Street Revitalization Project, a Children First Groton site visit, and the Submarine Veteran's Day 21-Gun Salute. He also attended the ribbon-cutting for a Connection Fund project that removed a blighted house and replaced it with a new house at 39 Midway Oval. Mayor Streeter received emails regarding the budget. He announced that there will be a fund-raiser for Donald and Katrina Stanford on February 21, 2010, and that the Senior Center Gong Show will be on February 26, 2010.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

None.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reminded Councilors that rules need to be adopted for the Town Council. She read a listing of all current vacancies on boards and commissions and stated that anyone interested can obtain an application on the Town's website or in the Town Clerk's office.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager conveyed the sad news that former Library Director Phoebe Gretchen Hammerstein Cuffe pass away on February 8, 2010. Mr. Oefinger stated that Dr. Kevin McBride will present an update on the Battlefields of the Pequot War Project on March 15, 2010; Ledge Light Health District will hold a presentation on sexually transmitted diseases on March 8, 2010; and the 2009 Grand List report has been completed.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti**

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

The Mayor stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Town Manager has not yet received an accounting of the funds given to the City for the repaving of Plant Street, as requested at a joint City Council/Town Council meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2010-0040 AFSCME Pension Agreement Amendments**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT PROVIDING PENSIONS FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL #4, AFSCME

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Code of Ordinances, Division 2 - Retirement System of Chapter 2 - Administration of Article IV - Officer and Employees contains the following section:

Sec. 2-76 Amendments

Upon recommendation of the town manager retirement benefits for employees of the town covered by this division may be increased by resolution of the Town Council.

WHEREAS, the Town Manager recommends amendments to the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of Local 818 of Council #4, AFSCME as set forth in the attached 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of Local 818 of Council #4, AFSCME; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the recommendation of the Town Manager and the cost estimates provided by the Town's actuaries regarding the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of Local 818 of Council #4, AFSCME, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Town Manager, the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of Local 818 of Council #4, AFSCME is amended as set forth in the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of Local 818 of Council #4, AFSCME.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider a resolution authorizing amendments to the Agreement Providing Pensions for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

2010-0043

GMEA Pension Agreement Amendments

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT PROVIDING PENSIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GROTON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Code of Ordinances, Division 2 - Retirement System of Chapter 2 - Administration of Article IV - Officer and Employees contains the following section:

Sec. 2-76 Amendments

Upon recommendation of the town manager retirement benefits for employees of the town covered by this division may be increased by resolution of the Town Council.

WHEREAS, the Town Manager recommends amendments to the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association as set forth in the attached 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association/United Electrical Local 222/Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 62, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, these amendments do not apply to members of the recently formed Groton Telecommunicators Association, whose pension benefits are still otherwise governed by the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the recommendation of the Town Manager and the cost estimates provided by the Town's actuaries regarding the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association/United Electrical Local 222/Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 62, Inc., it is hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Town Manager, the Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association is amended as set forth in the attached 2010 Retirement Incentive Program Description for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association/United Electrical Local 222/Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 62, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant